

**WHAT IS CLAIMED:**

1. A method of recording or playing back a recorded educational story, comprising:

providing a first dialogue segment between characters in the story establishing a context for the story, said first dialogue segment being accompanied by sound effects to promote visualization of a story scene by listeners;

providing a first narration segment articulating an issue being presented in the first dialogue segment;

providing a second dialogue segment between characters in the story emphasizing the issue, said second dialogue segment being accompanied by sound effects to promote visualization of a story scene by listeners;

providing a second narration segment identifying the issues that have been presented;

providing a concluding dialogue segment between characters in the story providing resolution of the story, said concluding dialogue segment being accompanied by sound effects promoting visualization of the story scene by listeners;

providing concluding narration emphasizing the resolution of the story segment; and

providing one or more periods when no dialogue or narration occurs, said one or more periods of a duration to permit a listener to use a pause control on a playback device to pause the playback of the recorded story,

wherein said sequence of dialogue, narration and periods for pausing the playback promotes discussion between audience members about the story.

2. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising providing at least one of study guides and work books for review during the audio playback.

3. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising providing the ability for a prospective listener to select one narration category from a plurality of narration categories for playback.

4. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said periods for pausing is of a duration designed to permit a listener to control the playback device without undue interruption in the audio playback.

5. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein said periods for pausing is four seconds in duration.

6. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said listener includes at least one parent and at least one child.

7. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising repeating said first dialogue segment, first narration segment, second dialogue segment, second narration segment, concluding dialogue segment and concluding narration segment for different parts of a story.

8. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:  
reproducing a prologue promoting the brand name of the company  
providing the audio recording; and  
transitioning from the prologue to a story with music and sound effects.

9. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:  
transitioning from the story using music and sound effects; and  
providing an epilogue promoting a brand name of a company proving the audio recording.

10. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising, after the second narration segment and before the concluding dialogue segment;

providing at least one dialogue segment between characters in the story, reemphasizing the issue, and telling of consequences of the characters' actions in the story, said at least one dialogue segment being accompanied by sound effects to promote visualization of a story scene by the listeners; and

providing a narration segment summarizing the lessons learned from the consequences of the characters' actions in the story.

11. A recording media having recorded thereon data capable of being reproduced as audible sound when played in an audio playback device, said audio playback being in accordance with the following method:

providing a first dialogue segment between characters in the story establishing a context for the story said first dialogue segment being accompanied by sound effects to promote visualization of a story scene by listeners;

providing a first narration segment articulating an issue being presented in the first dialogue segment;

providing a second dialogue segment between characters in the story emphasizing the issue, said second dialogue segment being accompanied by sound effects to promote visualization of a story scene by listeners;

providing a second narration segment identifying the issues that have been presented;

providing a concluding dialogue segment between characters in the story providing resolution of the story, said concluding dialogue segment being accompanied by sound effects promoting visualization of the story scene by listeners;

providing concluding narration emphasizing the resolution of the story segment; and

providing one or more periods when no dialogue or narration occurs, said one or more periods of a duration to permit a listener to use a pause control of a playback device to pause the playback of the recorded story,

wherein said sequence of dialogue, narration and periods for pausing the playback promotes discussion between audience members about the story.

12. A recording media in accordance with claim 11, wherein said method further comprising providing written materials for review during the audio playback.

13. A recording media in accordance with claim 11, wherein said method further comprises providing the ability for a prospective listener to select one narration category from a plurality of narration categories for playback.

14. A recording media in accordance with claim 11, wherein said periods for pausing is of a duration designed to permit a listener to control the playback device without undue interruption in the audio playback.

15. A recording media in accordance with claim 11, wherein said periods for pausing is three to five seconds in duration.

16. A recording media in accordance with claim 11, wherein said method further comprises repeating said first dialogue segment, first narration segment, second dialogue segment, second narration segment, concluding dialogue segment and concluding narration segment for different parts of a story.

17. A recording media in accordance with claim 11, wherein said method further comprises:

reproducing a prologue promoting the brand name of the company  
providing the audio recording; and  
transitioning from the prologue to a story with music and sound effects.

18. A recording media in accordance with claim 11, wherein said method further comprises:  
transitioning from the story using music and sound effects; and  
providing an epilogue promoting a brand name of a company providing the audio recording.

19. A recording media in accordance with claim 11, wherein said method further comprises, after the second narration segment and before the concluding dialogue segment;

providing at least one dialogue segment between characters in the story, reemphasizing the issue, and telling of consequences of the characters' actions in the story, said third dialogue segment being accompanied by sound effects to promote visualization of a story scene by the listeners; and

providing at least one narration segment summarizing the lessons learned from the consequences of the characters' actions in the story.